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NOV 09 1999

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7 MS. THOMAS: My name is Kristin Thomas and I was
8 raised in Caliente. My father was principal of the elementary
9 school, my mother was the first grade teacher, and I know very
10 well these people are talking about going out and watching the
11 bombing in the morning and watching the mushroom, also feeling
12 the heat from the explosion, and being told over and over again
13 that it was perfectly safe, and 1953, and it must have been
14 Hailey. I'm trying to think.

15 We had in elementary school a family of children
16 who were albino. There were eight children, and they had
17 called our school in Caliente and they wanted kids out of the
18 school because the explosion was premature and they thought it
19 was going to cause -- it was going to be like an earthquake.
20 They were so afraid that maybe the school would collapse.

21 So they called my father and he had all of his
22 students go outside, and they were standing out and Mom was out
23 there with her kids and she had several of the Hailey children
24 in her class. Those were the little kids, and what I remember
25 about the -- the kind of -- you know, they tried to describe it
1 as gray and pink. It was sparkling. It was literally yellow
2 and sparkling, and it just came over the whole school, over the
3 whole playground, and as soon as it left -- and it was there,
4 you know, for a while and we were out, and then as soon as it
5 left, we looked down and the little Hailey children were black
6 and blue and purple.

7 My mom just started to scream, because these were
8 these children totally exposed to this, and they died. Those
9 children died maybe -- I don't know -- it was not a whole lot
10 longer. They got leukemia and died, but it was that deadly.

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11 And as I grew up, you know, this was right at the
12 time I was developing into a -- a teenager, so I didn't think
13 much of it until I got married and my husband and I have been
14 married forty-four years, and I've had fifteen miscarriages, a
15 full-term stillborn, one that lived a half hour and one that
16 was a seven-month baby, that she's -- she's our youngest, 30
17 years old that was just touch and go.

18 But I mean all of this, and it wasn't -- I didn't
19 even connect it and it might have been this, but someone in
20 Anaheim, California says, "Kristin, were you raised?"

21 Because I was a perfectly healthy person, having
22 miscarriage of miscarriage after miscarriage, and of course it
23 had to do with this.

24 Members of our family, members, our relatives are
25 cancer, leukemia. I mean, this was just something, and I had a

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1 complete hysterectomy at 40, and I was a number four, which
2 means I had cancer, and I have a thyroid problem and I will
3 have it the rest of my life, and that was just part of being
4 raised in this nuclear waste.

5 I mean, that's what -- this is what our heritage
6 is, and this is what we've had our whole life, and we do not
7 want this again, nor do we want it for our grandchildren and
8 our great-grandchildren and anyone else in this community. We
9 don't want it for anyone in Nevada. We love our children.

10 My husband and I are teachers. We work with
11 children everyday. I'm a speech pathologist and there is no
12 way we want this here.

13 We realize this nasty stuff is here, but there

14 has got to be a better solution, and from what I've heard and
15 gained from being on the committee and listening and reading,
16 we haven't come up with a solution yet. We haven't even begun
17 to come up with a solution yet. We've got to go back to the
18 drawing board to start again.

19 We're talking about people and lives and things
20 that are going to last forever and ever and ever, and that's
21 what we've got to think about.

22 Thank you.